

09/445356

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Nicolas Hochet, et al.

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Serial No.: Unknown

Filed: Herewith

For: A METHOD OF MAKING A SANDWICH-TYPE  
COMPOSITE PANEL HAVING A HINGE, AND A PANEL  
OBTAINED BY PERFORMING SUCH A METHOD

Attorney Docket No.: VEI0318PUSA

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks

Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**ATTENTION: RO/US**

Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee and prior to examination on the merits, kindly  
amend the claims as follows:

**In The Claims**

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1[ or 2], characterized in  
that the incision (104) is made by means of a serrated blade(200) which, relative to the plane  
of said panel (100), firstly moves vertically only so as to penetrate into the skin (101) of said

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.0**

I hereby certify that this FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT and the documents referred to as attached therein are  
being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to  
Addressee" addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box PCT, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

Express  
Mail Label No. EJ 124 053 725 US

December 10, 1999  
Date of Deposit

Linda Robb

*Linda J. Robb*  
Signature